

30 June 2021

Ref: FOI2021/11779

## Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 5 April 2021, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

*"Please disclose any correspondence between Tom Scholar and Charles Roxburgh concerning David Cameron's lobbying activity on behalf of Greensill Capital.*

*This should include his attempts to persuade HMT to extend CCFF, CLBILS and other Covid finance schemes to Greensill Capital as an accredited lender/direct beneficiary last year."*

Following a search of our records, we can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request. Please find the information requested enclosed with this letter.

We are withholding some of this information under the following exemptions:

### **Section 35(1)(a) - formulation or development of government policy**

Some information in scope is being withheld because it relates to the formulation and development of government policy in respect of the Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) and in respect of the Boardman Review into the use of supply chain finance in government: releasing this information now could undermine the Review's work and the government's ability to consider or develop policy options in response to any recommendations arising from it.

This is a qualified exemption and, as such, we have considered the balance of public interest in disclosure and non-disclosure of the information. We recognise that there is an inherent public interest in transparency and accountability of public authorities, particularly in relation to the use of public funds, and in promoting the understanding of the issues with which public authorities deal. Balanced against this is the public interest in protecting the integrity of the policy-making process and the government's ability to freely discuss policies with complex trade-offs. It is important not to erode the safe space that is needed for effective policy making, particularly in relation to policies for supporting the economic recovery from Covid-19 that are currently being developed. Furthermore, as we have explained, there is a risk that the premature and ad hoc release of information that relates to the Boardman Review could undermine the Review's work and the government's ability to consider or develop policy options in response to any recommendations arising from it. Given the serious issues the Review is looking into, it is important that a safe space is maintained for the Review to operate effectively and for the government to formulate

and develop a robust policy response. We consider that the balance of the public interest falls to protecting this information given that its release would likely have a detrimental impact on the ongoing formulation and development of policy.

**Section 40(2) - third party personal data:** Section 40(2) of the FOI Act, by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) provides an absolute exemption for third party personal data, where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. The first data protection principle requires the disclosure of third-party personal data to be lawful, fair and transparent. We believe that releasing the information would breach the first data protection principle, since it would be unlawful and unfair to release the information.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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